

An Innovative MPH Program in Southern India: Lessons, Challenges and Next Steps

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Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology *Trivandrum* India

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (Sctimst)

- Institution of national importance
 - Estd. by the indian parliament -1981
 - University
- Tertiary care hospital for cardiovascular, thoracic & neurological diseases

**Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for
Medical Sciences & Technology
(Sctimst)**

- Centre for healthcare technology
R&D
- Achutha menon centre for health
science studies (*amchss*)
– The school of public health 1997

**Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for
Medical Sciences & Technology**



**Medical centre
For heart & brain diseases**

**Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for
Medical Sciences & Technology**



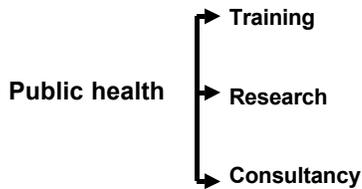
**Biomedical
Technology wing**

**Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for
Medical Sciences & Technology**



**Achutha Menon Centre For
Health Science Studies**

**Achutha Menon
Centre For Health Science
Studies
The School of Public Health**



**Achutha Menon Centre
for Health Science Studies
(Amchss)**

- Courses : DPH, MPH, MAE, PHD
–Short courses
- First indian university to offer MPH program
- The only MPH program recognized by the medical council of India

**Achutha Menon Centre
for Health Science Studies
(Amchss)**

- Recognized as a 'centre of excellence' for Public health training by the ministry of Health, government of India

MPH Program Objectives

- To enable students to understand the principles and practice of public health through the development, integration and application of
 - Knowledge of the major disciplines of public health

MPH Program Objectives

- Skills which are required for the practice of public health
- The competencies needed to deal with the changing demands of public health

MPH Program

- **Duration**
 - Four Semesters - Two years
- **Seats**
 - 10 Indian & Five Overseas Students
- **Requirements**
 - Graduation

MPH Program

- **Medical graduates (Modern Medicine), Dental graduates, Nursing, Pharmacy, Veterinary Sciences or equivalent**
 - Post graduation
- **Social Sciences, Nutrition or allied specialties**
- **Fellowships**
 - WHO Fellowships & Others

MPH Program

- **Age**
 - 40 years
- **Selection Procedure**
 - Entrance Examination + Personal Interview
- **Course fees (For the entire course)**

MPH Program

-Indian Students

- Rs.100,000 (Non-Sponsored,
Rs.150,000 (Sponsored)

-Overseas Students

- US \$ 4000

Course Modules & Credits Year 1

Basic Biostatistics	4
Introduction to Epidemiology	3
Health & Development	3
Basic Health Economics	2
Gender Issues in Health	2

Course Modules & Credits Year 1

Ethics in Public Health	2
Health Policy Analysis 1	2
Health Care System in India	2
Health and Environment	3

Course Modules & Credits Year 1	
Anthropological Perspectives in Health	1
Health Management	4
Quantitative Research Methods	2

Course Modules & Credits Year 2	
Qualitative Research Methods	2
Chronic Disease Epidemiology	2
Infectious Disease Epidemiology	2
Intermediate Epidemiology	2

Course Modules & Credits Year 2	
Intermediate Biostatistics	2
Health Policy Analysis 2	1
Public Health Technologies	2
Dissertation	15
Internship for two months	0

PHD Programme

- **Epidemiology**
- **Health economics**
- **Health policy**
- **Health systems**
- **Gender issues in health**
- **Medical anthropology**

PhD Program

- **Started in 2003**
- **Minimum three years residential program**
- **Course Fee Rs 2000/year (<\$ 50)**
- **2003**
 - **One (Health Economics)**
- **2004**

PhD Program

- **Five (Chronic Disease**
- **Epidemiology - 3**
- **Health Economics - 1**
- **Health Policy -1**
- **2005**
 - **Health Systems Research - 1**
- **2007**
 - **Health Policy - 1**

Short Courses

- **Prevention and control of non - communicable diseases**
- **Ethical issues in health research**
- **Gender & medical education**
- **Making pregnancies safer**

Research Projects

- **Tobacco cessation & control**
 - **Objective**
 - **To develop culturally appropriate cessation materials for tobacco cessation in India and Indonesia (NIH -University of Minnesota)**

Research Projects

- **Development of Cardiovascular Diseases Surveillance system for Indian Industrial Population (WHO)**
- **Small Grants Program on Gender and Social Issues in Reproductive Health (Ford Foundation)**

Research Projects

- **Research Training & Advocacy for Gender Sensitization of Medical Education and Capacity Building of Health Professionals for Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity (Macarthur Foundation)**
- **Stakeholders' perspectives of institutional review boards (IRBs) in India.**

Research Projects

- **Objective**
 - **To understand the various perceptions of appropriate review processes and their salience (NIH - Harvard University)**
 - **Geo-coding of Habitats in Tsunami Affected Areas to Study Psychosocial Impacts (University of Southern California, USA)**

Consultancy

- **Planning commission**
 - **government of india**
- **Government of kerala**
- **Asian development bank**
- **Unfpa**
- **Who**
- **World bank**
 - **and others**

Faculty

- **Core Faculty (7) supported by a panel of national and International visiting faculty from CDS, CMC Vellore, TISS, IIT Madras, HSPH, Johns Hopkins, UCLA & selected NGOs**
- **International Visiting faculty supported by MacArthur Foundation & WHO**

Admission Calendar

- **Sale of Application Forms**
 - September to the first week of October
- **Short listing**
 - October

Admission Calendar

- **Selection**
 - November
- **Notification of joining**
 - December
- **Course commences**
 - 1st January

Number of MPH Graduates

Year	M	F	Total
1998	5	3	8
1999	5	1	6 (1)
2000	7	2	9
2001	6	2	8
2002	5	3	8
2003	8	5	13
2004	12	6	18
2005	10	8	18
2006	8	4	12
Total	66	34	100 (1)

MPH Graduates

- **Physicians – 58**
- **Dentists – 12**
- **Social Science post graduates – 17**
- **Nurses – 9**
- **Veterinarians – 4**
- **Accepted in positions of responsibility within Government Health Services (40%)**

MPH Graduates

- **Working with International Agencies (WHO/UNICEF) & NGOs (31%)**
- **Taken up academic positions at AMCHSS and elsewhere (16%)**
- **Joined PhD Program in India and Abroad (5%)**
- **Migrated to foreign countries (8%)**

**MPH Graduates
Publications**

- Addictive Behaviors
- Bulletin of WHO
- BMJ
- Health Policy and Planning
- International Journal of Health Services
- Journal of Public Health Medicine

**MPH Graduates
Publications**

- Journal of Clinical Epidemiology
- Preventive Medicine
- Prevention and Control
- Reproductive Health Matters
- Indian Heart Journal
- Indian Journal of Public Health
- Indian Pediatrics
- National Medical Journal of India

**Participation in International
Conferences**

- All the MPH graduates of the first three batches (23) participated in international conferences in Bangkok and presented their research work

Participation in International Conferences

- The Institute mobilized financial support from external agencies (Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Wellcome Trust, MacArthur foundation) for this participation
- From batch 4 onwards securing financial support was left to the individual graduate

Elements of Success

- Student Centred
- Field based training program
- Computer and internet facilities
- Publication of research work
- Opportunity for presenting research work of students

Elements of Success

- Career pathways of Graduates
- Helping Placements of Graduates
- Student Mentoring
- Committed and resourceful Faculty
- Autonomy

Challenges

- **Career pathways for mph graduate**
 - **Creating demand for public health education**
 - **Current students are looking for attractive assignments (WHO short term assignments)**
 - **Making public health degree a required qualification at district level and above**

Challenges

- **Equating public health post graduation with other post graduate degrees in medicine**
- **Faculty recruitment**
- **Faculty retention**
- **Faculty training**

FUTURE PLANS

- **Increase both student and faculty strength**
- **Networking with other public health institutions such as the Public Health Foundation of India, BRAC School of Public Health etc**
- **Provide guidance for MPH programs in India and neighboring countries**
